

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO ARCWORK OF  
FRESNO, FRESNO, CA

**HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to ArcWork of Fresno. In partnership with the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, ArcWork employs people with developmental disabilities at jobs which enhance the business environment and the community.

The ArcWork project was the vision of Larry Willey, vice president of marketing for the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Willey was aware that one of the priorities of Fresno Mayor Jim Patterson was to keep Fresno Clean and Green. In response, it was proposed that individual businesses and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce could sponsor various areas and pay ArcWork employees to keep them clean.

Since then, the concept of community and corporate involvement to take care of the cities beautification has expanded greatly. Parks were recently added to the list for the beautification process, and various city agencies and groups have become involved in the program. The collaboration of resources has been so effective, the city of Fresno has been able to redirect its workers to more demanding projects. The result: ArcWork crews are now capable of picking up an increasing number of general city tasks.

The advent of the ArcWork program has been a win-win for everyone involved. Businesses have found the services to be cost effective, helping to create a cleaner environment throughout Fresno. ArcWork also has allowed business to gain recognition for the positive contributions made to the program. Municipalities have benefited by the increased partnerships that have been forged between the Fresno Chamber of Commerce and the business community, helping to create employment opportunities for the developmentally disabled. Most importantly, though, are the benefits that the ArcWork program has given to those with developmental disabilities who want to work and increase their self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I admire the success of the ArcWork program. Working together, the city of Fresno, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, private organizations, and local businesses have found a beneficial way to solve some of the challenges facing our city in a positive and effective manner. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to ArcWork, a program that serves as a model of local grassroots involvement throughout the Nation.

IN HONOR OF DR. AARON E.  
HENRY

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 1997*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Aaron E. Henry, a fellow Mississippian, and civil rights pioneer died Monday morning, May 19, 1997, of complications resulting from a stroke, following a 5-month illness. Dr. Henry was a mentor, a humanitarian, a scholar, and a great human being. I would like to share with you the following information about the life of a man who helped to forge the shape of society in this country for all African-Americans.

Dr. Henry was born in Clarksdale, MS, July 2, 1921, to the late Joseph and Elizabeth Henry Jackson. He was the youngest of five children. His natural parents died when he was very young and his formative years were spent under the nurturing support of his maternal uncle and aunt, Edd Henry and Mattie Logan Henry. He was an active member of Haven United Methodist Church, serving as lay leader, and a member of the United Methodist Men.

He attended public schools on Coahoma County, graduating from Coahoma Agricultural High School. He entered the U.S. Army as a private in 1943 and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1946. Following his discharge, Dr. Henry attended Xavier University in New Orleans. After receiving a degree in pharmacy in 1950, he returned to Clarksdale and opened the Fourth Street Drug Store. His career as a civil rights activist began soon thereafter.

On June 11, 1950, he married the lovely Noelle Celestine Michael of Jackson. To this union one daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth, was born.

In 1953, Dr. Henry organized the Coahoma County Branch of the NAACP and served as the State NAACP president from 1960 until 1993. He worked with all five of the field directors of the Mississippi State Conference of the NAACP, including the late Medger Evers. In an effort to assure equal representation for all Mississippians, he chaired the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party that successfully challenged the established State Democratic Party during the 1968 Democratic Convention in Atlantic City, NJ. This effort led to the creation of the integrated Democratic Party in Mississippi. Dr. Henry participated in the Freedom Rider Movement and in the Mississippi Freedom Summer's nonviolent campaigns of public protest which led to the eventual passage of the Public Accommodations sections of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On the national level, Dr. Henry was instrumental in securing congressional support for passage of the Office of Economic Opportunity Act. Several programs, including Head Start and Job Corps, grew out of this act to provide services to improve the quality of life for all citizens. Dr. Henry's quest for equality and fair

treatment was evident in his commitment to securing Job Corps and Head Start Programs for Mississippians. He believed in the need for Job Corps' existence and in the young people it would serve. He worked with former Gov. Cliff Finch to bring the first Job Corps Center in Mississippi located in Crystal Springs, MS. Dr. Henry recognized that the benefits of the program would mean job opportunities for the State's poor and underserved young people. He not only was a pioneer in the State for Job Corps and Head Start, but for many programs that impacted the quality of life for all Mississippians.

In a fitting tribute to his years as a civil rights leader, Dr. Henry was elected by the citizens of District 26 in Coahoma County to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1979 and reelected in 1983 and 1987. He was an active member of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus.

Dr. Henry has served on the board of director of a number of organizations including the national NAACP where he served as vice president and as a member of its executive committee; chairman of the National Caucus for the Black Aged since 1972; member of the Federal Council on Aging since 1977; the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; the Southern Regional Council and the Mississippi Council on Human Relations. Dr. Henry was chairman of the board and primary stockholder in Civic Communications Corp., the holding company for WLBT-TV-3, Inc., the minority-owned NBC affiliate in Jackson, MS; KLTN in Tyler, TX; KTRE in Lufkin, TX; and WLBM in Meridian, MS. He was chairman of the board of directors for MINACT, Inc., a management and training firm in Jackson operating Job Corps centers throughout the Nation.

His commitment to community, educational and civic issues propelled him into the forefront of the American Legion, Elks, Masons, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. He was recognized for his outstanding academic achievements through honorary degrees from Tougaloo College, Rust College, Mary Holmes College, Prentiss Institute, Queens College, and Boston University. Professionally, he was recognized by the American Pharmaceutical Association with the Hubert H. Humphrey Award.

Dr. Henry lived an active and committed life. He leaves to cherish memory a daughter, Rebecca Elizabeth of Clarksdale; grandsons, Aaron and Demon of Clarksdale; a sister, Thelma Henry Johnson of St. Louis, MO, and many supporters of justice and equality throughout this Nation.

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